

Message Text

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DEPT PASS US SENATE FOR PAT HOLT, FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE AND JOHN HOLM, SENATOR MCGOVERN'S OFFICE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, (MCGOVERN, GEORGE)

SUBJECT: SENATOR MCGOVERN'S PRESS CONFERENCE JERUSALEM, APRIL
4, 1975

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY AM, APRIL 4, 1975 IN WASHINGTON. PLEASE
GIVE WIDESPREAD, MAXIMUM AMERICAN PRESS DISTRIBUTION.

"PRESS CONFERENCE OF SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN OF
SOUTH DAKOTA, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE
EAST OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, APRIL 4,
1975, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL.

"OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR MCGOVERN ON MIDDLE EAST
RELATIONS:

"MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ISRAEL: THIS IS MY FIRST AND
ONLY PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

"I HAVE READ PRESS ACCOUNTS ABOUT A "MCGOVERN PLAN"
FOR THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT THERE IS NO "MCGOVERN PLAN" AND
THE ONLY TIME I HAVE USED THE WORD PLAN, EVEN IN PRIVATE,
WAS TO DENY THAT I HAVE ONE.

"I RESOLVED BEFORE BEGINNING THIS TRIP, HOWEVER, TO
KEEP AN OPEN MIND TOWARD THE PLANS OF OTHERS--NO
MATTER HOW EXTREME. SO I HAVE ACCEPTED OPPORTUNITIES
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TO LISTEN TO THE VIEWS OF MANY DIVERSE PERSONALITIES

AND I AM CONTINUING THAT COURSE IN ISRAEL.

"I HAVE TRIED TO SEE BEYOND PASSION AND PREJUDICE TO THE REALITIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST. WHAT ARE THOSE REALITIES?

"1. THE FIRST REALITY IS THE FACT OF ISRAEL AS A PERMANENT, INDEPENDENT JEWISH STATE -- A FACT RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED STATES, OTHER MAJOR POWERS AND THE UNITED NATIONS. THE RECOGNITION OF THIS REALITY BY ALL STATES IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS, INDEED, ESSENTIAL TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE ISSUES FACING THE AREA.

"2. THE SECOND REALITY IS THE INCREASING POWER OF PERMANENT, INDEPENDENT ARAB STATES -- SOME OF THEM RICHLY ENDOWED WITH OIL, BUT ALL OF THEM RICH IN HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL VALUES. THE COOPERATION OF THESE NUMEROUS ARAB STATES IS ESSENTIAL TO THE PEACE OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE UNITED STATES.

"3. THE THIRD REALITY IS THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL MILLION PALESTINIANS WITH THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF HISTORY BEHIND THEM BUT WITH AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE AND AN UNSATISFACTORY PRESENT. THEY ARE ENTITLED TO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HOMELAND OF THEIR OWN.

"THERE ARE VARIOUS WAYS THAT THESE REALITIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST CAN BE INTERPRETED AND ACTED UPON. BUT THE GOAL MUST BE PEACE, PROSPERITY AND DIGNITY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

"I DO NOT INTEND ON THIS STUDY MISSION TO AIR MY OWN VIEWS. I SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER TO ACHIEVE PEACE AND I CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE RECENT EFFORTS IN CONGRESS TO ASSUME OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO SET THE PARAMETERS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

"ANY SPECIAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THAT I HAVE WILL NOT BE GIVEN HERE, BUT WILL BE CAREFULLY DEVELOPED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOLLOWING MY RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES IN A REPORT TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

"WITHIN THOSE CONSIDERATIONS I SHALL BE PLEASED TO RESPOND TO YOUR QUESTIONS."
PELLETREAU

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